MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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NICK FURY, AGENT OF... S.H.I.E.L.D.™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

STERANKO

SHIELD ORIGIN ISSUE!

Hypnotic Whirling Coin

HYPNOTIZE FAST! Fascinating pocket-size invention. Hold plastic HYPNO-COIN in front of person. Then, by gently moving coin it holds, it captures and holds their attention while they are hypnotized QUICKLY! Complete with simplified book that tells you what to say and command, how to re-hypnotize with snap of finger, amazing stunts.

No. 8103. Set - 85c

CHAMELEON

Watch It Change Color!

Wear On Your Lapel

LIVE PET

Alive!

Outstanding Educational & Scientific Value to Young Naturalists!

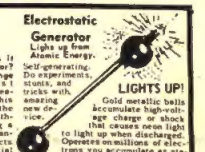
What makes it change its color? Why does it change its color? Foremost scientists have endeavored to explain this remarkable action of the Chameleon without finding a satisfactory answer. The change in color takes but a few minutes and you can watch the change. Almost 4-inches long. Catches flies and insects for food. Whenever a fly comes within range, its long tongue shoots out. Each pair of chameleons comes with supply of special live food and pet book. LIVE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.

☐ 5001. Live Chameleons. Pair with food and book. Postpaid $1.95

Electrostatic Generator

Lights up Neon, Atomic Energy.

Self-generating. Do experiments, stunts, and tricks with amazing new device.



LIGHTS UP!

Gold metallic balls accumulate high-voltage charge at shock that causes neon light to light up when discharged. Operates on millions of electrons you accumulate as static electricity. Hold in hand. Touch ball to person or object to discharge shock. Lasts forever. Handsome.

No. 4997. 75c ea. 3 for $2.00

MAMMOTH 9 FOOT HOT AIR BALLOON

AND 9-FOOT FLYING SAUCER! For a new thrill, fly the Hot Air Balloon or Flying Saucers! Goes to amazing heights on just hot air. Safe. No flames are carried aloft. Fly it over and over again. Will carry parachutes, instruments, etc. Ideal for July 4th, celebrations, science classes or just fun. Multi-color, pre-cut gores, ready for quick assembly. Set includes all materials for launching, inflating and flying.

☐ 7077. Hot Air Balloon. 9 Feet Tall. Complete $2.75

☐ 7080. Hot Air Flying Saucer (U.F.O.) 9 Feet Diameter. Complete $3.95

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SHOOTS STANDARD BB's. Model Army Combat Machine Gun, or remove base and use as hand-held Automatic Pistol. Fires 15 BB's in 3 seconds or one at a time. Precision model with removable swivel base, Automatic hand-crank firing mechanism. 7-inches overall — standard gun size.

Postpaid

No. 2908. $1.00. BB's 10¢ Pkg.

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FIRE FROM YOUR FINGERTIPS. Hottest trick in years! Thousands of joke, magic & trick users. "Flash Paper" breaks in brilliant flash of flame. Can hold in fingers since quick flash does not generate much heat. Comes in pad of about 15 sheets. Use one sheet, or less.

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8950. Nazi SS Sweetheart (Center) $2.50

8948. Iron Cross (Right) $2.50

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☐ 5989. Each ..... 35c 3 for 85c

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Looks like attractively bound book, but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewels, money, etc. hidden away. 4⅛x6x1½".

☐ 4012. Price Postpaid ..$1.25

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Produce clouds of smoke. Does not explode, just generates smoke. Many useful & fun purposes. Used to smoke animals out, etc.

No. 2142. 20¢. 3 for 50¢. 12 for $1.50

Smoke Bomb Powder

Easily ignites to give large amount of smoke. Used for tricks, TV work, movies, etc. In ash tray, cigaret case if off, for tricks, stunts, it acts as cover-up. Hundreds of uses.

No. 2671. Large Pkg. 75c

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Model Rocketry, Pyrotechnics. All about rocket engines, launch, payloads, pyrotechnics, experiments, formulas, plans, chemical reactions, etc.

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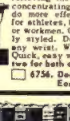
INSTA-MAGIC POWER. Instantly gives your grip, wrist and arm more power by relieving the strain on the wrist and concentrating the muscles so they can do more effective work. Indispensable for athletes, boxers, farmers, mechanics or workmen. Genuine leather, attractive design. Double strap, adjustable to any wrist. Wear any tension you wish. Quick way to get more power. Get two for both arms.

☐ 6756. Double Strap. Each ... 50¢ 2 for ... 85¢

Electronic Wrist Watch



Digital readout. Time, date, month, alarm, stopwatch, countdown timer, 12 or 24 hour. Many more features. Water resistant. Complete with battery.

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☐ 4005. Super Magnet. Each ... $2.50

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pictures on 16 mm. roll. With leather case-ready cases.

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1011. Complete Set. All for $1.50

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Sounds like dynamite blast! BRILLIANT FLASH! Deafening roar echoes for blocks. Fire July 4th noisemaker, starting gun, celebrations, etc. Safe. No recoil. Hundreds of shots for few cents each. Uses

Big Bang!

bide. Fast firing. Attractively made of heavy cast iron.

No. 7383. 9" Cannon $5.95. No. 7384A. 17"..$9.95

No. 7385. Ammunition. 50¢ Tube (500 Shots)

MAMMOTH MAGIC CABINET

Put on a complete stage act or do baffling magic tricks. 3 layers of tricks in big 18½x13½x5 in. 4-color box. Illustrated manual tells these 20 tricks and how to perform them. Includes complete equipment and instructions. Jumbo size cards & tricks, Magic Wand, Invisible Thread, Cigaret Maker, (Produces real cigaret), Silver Box, Liquid Suspension, Optical Illusion, Magic Burning Mouse, Anti-Gravity Trick, All Purpose Vanisher, Magic Balls, Coin Box, Chinese Linking Rings, All Wet Comic Trick, Cigaret Vanisher, Color Changing Silks, Palming Device for Easy Sleight-of-Hand Work, Jumping Pen, and Instructions changed from time to time but you get same value.

No. 6833. Mammoth Magic Cabinet. Postpaid.. $5.95

MASTER MAGIC SET $2.50

Contains 12 great tricks which regularly sell for $4.50. Includes Cups & Balls, Coin Chain, Escapo, Tell Pencils, Magic Aid, Phantoms, etc., with booklet. All equipment included.

SECRET "BUG" MICROPHONE TRANSMITTER

Midget "bug" microphone for secret transmitting and pick-up. Overhear conversation in another room or building, do many magical & supernatural stunts. Use as detectaphone, phone pick-up, amplifier, telephone, etc. Complete except for battery & earphone or speaker. With directions.

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No. 6592. Earphone $1.50 Each

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$1.75

"THROW YOUR VOICE"

Into bar, outside, under bed, make Mummy "talk" and many other tricks. FOOLS EVERYONE! Instructions include VENTRILO DOUBLE THROAT. This tiny instrument fits in mouth out of sight. Also do amazing bird and animal imitations easily!

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Welcome to the Wild World of Mystics, Monsters & Miracles! Your friends will think you have an evil genius that belongs in the world of supernatural. Over 100 experiments — scientific wonders, potions & spells. Set includes Moon Powder, Witch's Brew, Skeleton Powder, Mummy Crystals, Leech's Love Dust, Rainbow Potion, Ghoul's Globules, etc., test tubes, measuring & other lab equipment, manual and chemicals. Large lab box.

☐ 6026. Price Postpaid $3.95

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2996 - 25¢ Pkg. 2997 - $1.00

JOKE GUM!

Pucker the Lips Gum

Chew it and lips swell up!

No. 2738. 20¢ Pkg. 3 for 50¢

Garlic (Awful) Gum

The Flavor Lasts. Ruins breath for hrs.

No. 2735. 20¢ Pkg. 3 for 50¢

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Massive Men's & Military Style Ring with Synthetic Ruby. Special cut makes it sparkle with brilliant red fire. Heavy mounting with raised "HIGH SCHOOL" in panel. American Eagle in deep relief on each side. Antique gold finish. State size.

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PROLOGUE:
DEATH STALKS THE DAYLIGHT HOURS AS, SOMEWHERE IN THE SPRAWLING VASTNESS OF OUR NATION'S CAPITAL, AN ELECTRONICALLY AUGMENTED VOICE RINGS OUT...AND A STARTLED FACE STARES SUDDENLY UPWARD IN SHEER, STARK DISBELIEF--!
GREETINGS, NICK FURY! DID YOU TRULY IMAGINE YOU COULD FIND SAFETY IN THE MERE HEIGHT OF A ROOFTOP...
...WHEN IT HAS BEEN DULY AND INDELIBLY DECREED... THAT YOU MUST DIE!?
ZZZAAAP
AAAAAA
AAAAA

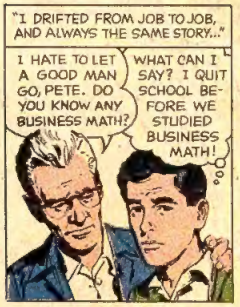
WHILE, A FEW SHORT BLOCKS AWAY...
THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE!
THAT IS THE ONE I SEEK!
AND THEN, AS IF IN A SCENE FROM SOME MADDENING NIGHTMARE...
...NICK FURY DIES AGAIN!!
BRAKKA
RRAK
SKREEEE
CHAKKA BRAKKA
SLAM!!
SURELY, MY MISSION WAS COMPLETE... IN THAT SHORT, LETHAL BURST!
AND YET, THERE IS NO USE TAKING EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE!
I'LL MAKE MY REPORT NOW TO MY SECTION HEAD, AND... BUT, NO!
I CAN'T BE CERTAIN... UNTIL I FINISH THE JOB WITH A HAND-GUN!

AH! NOW AT LAST THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT!
THE ACCURSED SECRET ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS SHIELD HAS LOST ITS NEW DIRECTOR... EVEN BEFORE HE COULD BE SWORN IN!
"AND NOW IT BEGI
AND NOW, ALSO, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN WITNESSING A SHOCKING RE-ENACTMENT OF SCENES FROM NICK FURY'S DRAMATIC DEBUT AS HEAD OF SHIELD, AS RE-TOLD BY:
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
FRANK SPRINGER ARTIST
SAM ROSEN LETTERER

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

PETE DUNCAN—"DROPOUT"

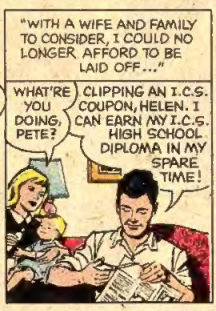
"WHEN I TURNED 16, I WANTED TO REALLY START LIVING..."
HIGH SCHOOL
FREE AT LAST!
NO MORE SCHOOL FOR ME. MY NEW JOB PAYS $60 A WEEK. AND I'M BUYING A CAR WITH MY OWN MONEY!

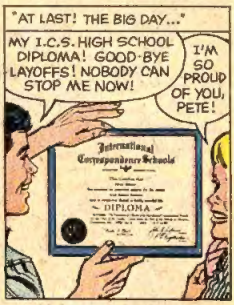

"I DRIFTED FROM JOB TO JOB, AND ALWAYS THE SAME STORY..."
I HATE TO LET A GOOD MAN GO, PETE. DO YOU KNOW ANY BUSINESS MATH?
WHAT CAN I SAY? I QUIT SCHOOL BEFORE WE STUDIED BUSINESS MATH!

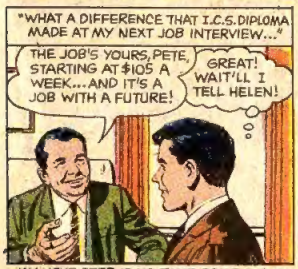
"A YEAR AFTER QUITTING SCHOOL, I WAS OUT OF A JOB, FOR THE THIRD TIME.
PETE! YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB HERE, TOO?
BOB SHOLL! YEAH! I FIGURE I'VE GOT THE EXPERIENCE!
EMPLOYM OFFICE

"BUT BOB'S DIPLOMA HELPED HIM CINCH THE JOB I WANTED."
MY OLD CLASSMATES NOT ONLY GET THE BETTER JOBS, THEY'RE PAID MORE MONEY TO START.

"HELEN AND I WERE MARRIED. A YEAR LATER, OUR FIRST CHILD WAS BORN. WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER UNTIL, ONE DAY AT THE PLANT..."
HEARD THE NEWS, PETE? THEY'RE GOING TO START LAYING OFF MEN NEXT WEEK!


"WITH A WIFE AND FAMILY TO CONSIDER, I COULD NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE LAID OFF..."
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, PETE?
CLIPPING AN I.C.S. COUPON, HELEN. I CAN EARN MY I.C.S. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN MY SPARE TIME!


"AT LAST! THE BIG DAY..."
MY I.C.S. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA! GOOD-BYE LAYOFFS! NOBODY CAN STOP ME NOW!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, PETE!
International Correspondence Schools
DIPLOMA


"WHAT A DIFFERENCE THAT I.C.S. DIPLOMA MADE AT MY NEXT JOB INTERVIEW..."
THE JOB'S YOURS, PETE, STARTING AT $105 A WEEK... AND IT'S A JOB WITH A FUTURE!
GREAT! WAIT'LL I TELL HELEN!

MY NEXT STEP IS TO TAKE SOME I.C.S. COLLEGE-LEVEL ENGINEERING COURSES—THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

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Pete Duncan is fictional. His story is a composite from the files of I.C.S.

AS, IN THE SELFSAME SHORT SPAN OF SEVEN FATEFUL SECONDS...
HERE COMES THAT C.I.A. CLOWN NOW.. AS IF OUT FOR A SUNDAY STROLL!
HE'LL SOON LEARN THERE IS NOWHERE ON EARTH HE CAN RELAX ...WHILE HYDRA EXISTS!
KROMP!
WRAAKK!
AND, HYDRA WILL NEVER PERISH!
BUT, ALAS, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR NICK FURY!
NOW TO INFORM MY SECTION LEADER, WITHOUT DELAY!
AGENT R REPORTING, FROM STATION 3!
I HAVE JUST KILLED NICK FURY!
PAH! THIS WAS ALMOST TOO EASY!
I DID NOT EVEN NEED MY SPECIAL PROTECTIVE ARMOR!
AND YET... IT MAKES FINISHING MY TASK THAT MUCH SIMPLER!
KRUNCH!
4.

AND NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND HEARING THOSE FEARFUL WORDS ONCE MORE...
AGENT R REPORTING, FROM STATION 3!
I HAVE JUST KILLED NICK FURY!
EXCELLENT, AGENT R! YOU'LL BE REWARDED FOR THIS!
WE ALL SHALL BE!
THEN, THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE OTHERS TO LIE IN WAIT ALONG ALTERNATIVE ROUTES!
COME IN, AGENT T!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO CALL IN, SECTION LEADER!
YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW I HAVE ASSASSINATED COLONEL FURY!
WHAT??
IT CAN'T BE!
AGENT R JUST REPORTED KILLING HIM, AT STA...
THIS IS AGENT N, SIR!
TARGET JUST FELL TO HIS DEATH... FROM ATOP MIDTOWN TOWERS!
NO...NO!!
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE ANSWER!
NONE OF THE FIGURES DESTROYED WAS THE TRUE FURY!
THEN, I MUST INFORM THE MASTER AT ONCE...THAT WE HAVE FAILED OUR ASSIGNMENT!
AND THE MASTER PUNISHES FAILURE...
BY DEATH!
MEANWHILE, WATCHING HIS APPARENT DEMISES FROM A SAFE VANTAGE POINT NEARBY, AT LAST WE BEHOLD THE REAL NICK FURY...
INTO THE PORSCHE, COLONEL...IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!
BY NOW, OUR FOES KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE... AND THEY'RE BOUND TO BE HOPPING MAD!
YA TALKED ME INTO IT, MAC!
BUT, I'LL BE HANGED IF I CAN SAVVY WHY YOU'RE GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR ONE EX-THREE-STRIPER!
5

IT'S NOT JUST FOR AN EX-SERGEANT, SIR... OR FOR A COLONEL IN THE C.I.A.!
BESIDES, WE'VE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH LIFE MODEL DECOYS FOR SOME TIME...AND TODAY WAS THEIR FIRST FIELD TEST!
LIFE MODEL DECOYS, HUH? SO THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THEM POOR MAN'S NICK FURYS!
OKAY, SO I'M USED TO BEIN' THE BIG BRASS' GUINEA PIG!..
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T CLUE ME IN ON WHY THOSE JOKERS TRIED TO CREAM ME BACK THERE!
I'M SORRY, COLONEL, BUT I'VE TOLD YOU ALMOST EVERYTHING I'M AT LIBERTY TO REVEAL!
HUSH-HUSH, HUH? AWRIGHT, WE'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY!
JUST THE SAME, SOMEBODY BETTER BRIEF ME BEFORE THIS DAY'S OVER, OR...
IN ORDER TO ENDANGER AS FEW CIVILIANS AS POSSIBLE... WHEN WE'RE STRAFED!
HEY! WHY'RE YA TURNIN' OFF THE HIGHWAY... ONTO A SIDE ROAD?
WHEN WE'RE WHAT??
LOOK UP, COLONEL... INTO THE SKY!
AND, AS THE THOROUGHLY PUZZLED NICK FURY COMPLIES, A SUDDEN BARRIER-SHATTERING ROAR IS HEARD FROM ABOVE...
...AS A STRANGELY-MARKED FIGHTER JET STREAKS DOWN FROM THE SUN-SPLASHED HEAVENS...ON AN ERRAND OF PURE DESTRUCTION..!
6

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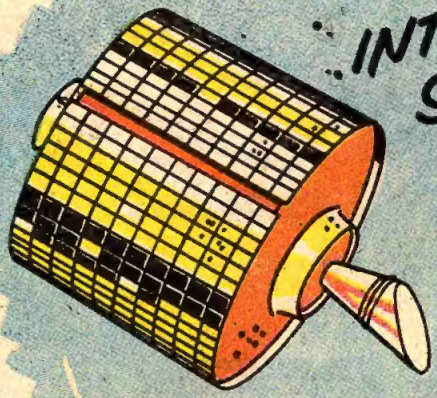
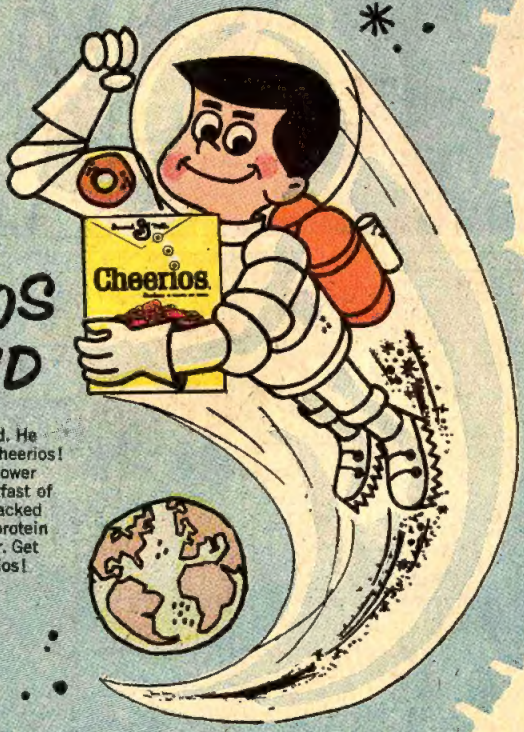


INTELSAT III SATELLITE

Like the Early Birds, these satellites will hang thousands of miles above the earth. They will be sent up in 1968. Each one can bounce 1200 telephone calls – and four television channels – from one side of the earth to the other all at the same time. They rotate with the earth and always remain above the same spot on the earth. They get their energy from solar energy cells.



CHEERIOS KID

This is the Cheerios Kid. He gets *his* energy from Cheerios! Like you he needs go-power every day. And a breakfast of Cheerios with milk is packed with muscle-building protein and energy for go-power. Get yourself Go. Get Cheerios!

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YOU CAN GET THESE and many, many other big prizes — or cash — simply by selling beautiful Olympic IMPRINTED CHRISTMAS AND ALL OCCASION CARDS. The Olympic way is the IN way! Here's why . . .

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BE THE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD — JOIN OLYMPIC NOW!

OLYMPIC SALES CLUB INC. Dept. 68MV6 Windsor Locks, Conn. 06096

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OLYMPIC SALES CLUB, Inc.
Dept. 68MV6
Windsor Locks, Conn. 06096

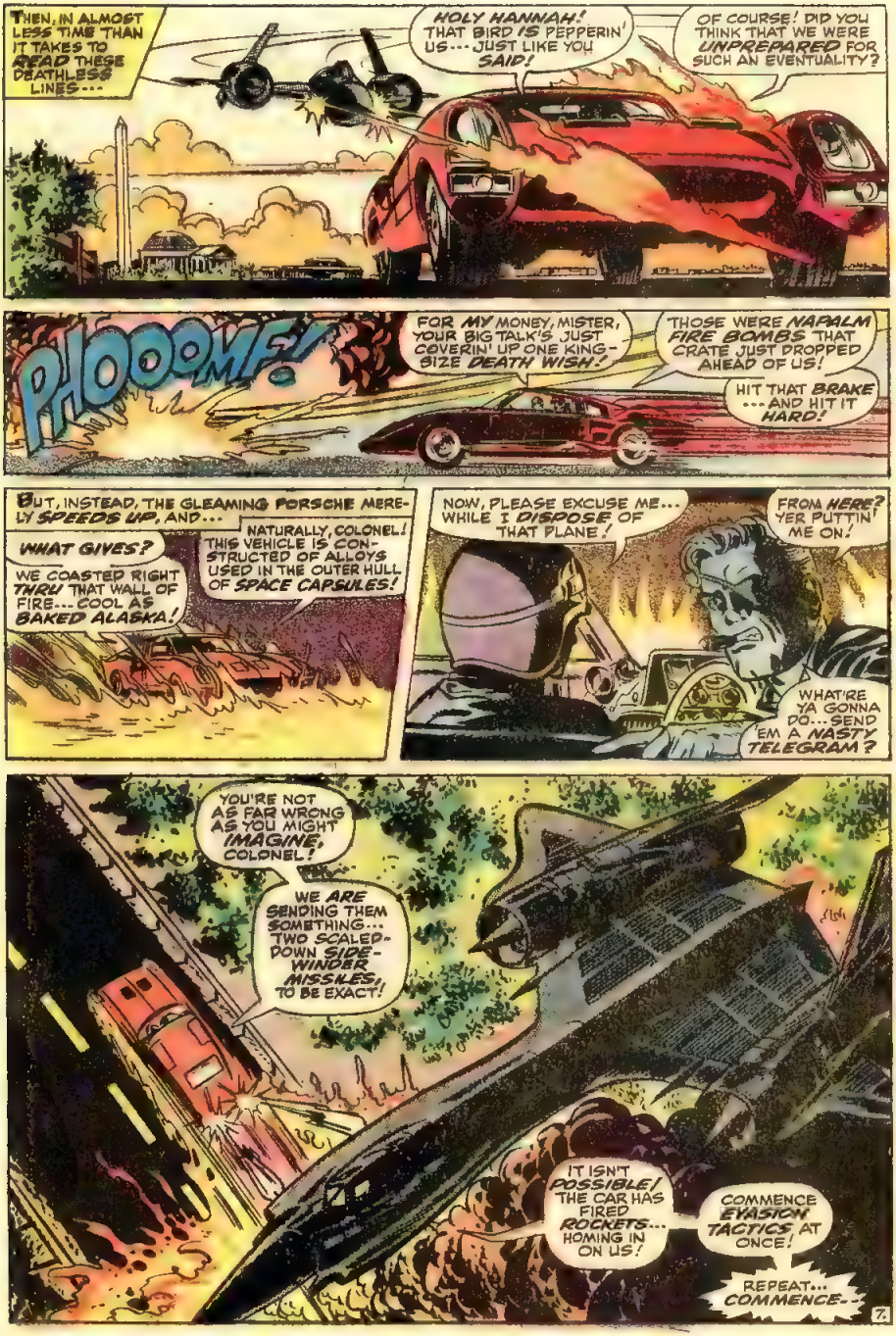
Enroll me as a member without dues or ANY obligation. Send me the FREE catalog of prizes, FREE book of sample cards — all of which I can keep — together with complete details on how to get prizes or cash the easy Olympic way.

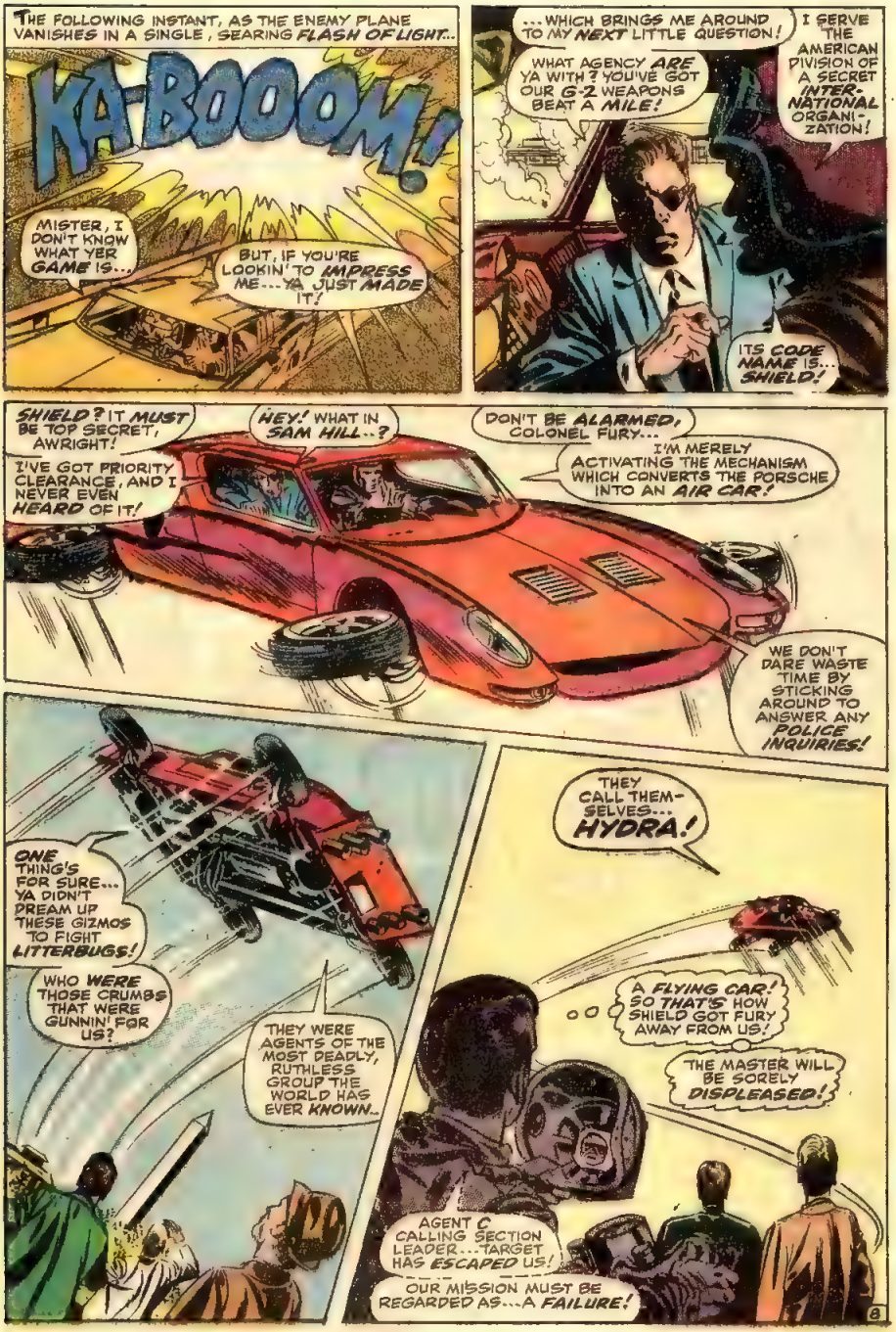
MY NAME _____
Print clearly

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____


THEN, IN ALMOST LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO READ THESE DEATHLESS LINES---
HOLY HANNAH! THAT BIRD IS PEPPERIN' US--- JUST LIKE YOU SAID!
OF COURSE! DID YOU THINK THAT WE WERE UNPREPARED FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY?
PHOOOMF!
FOR MY MONEY, MISTER, YOUR BIG TALK'S JUST COVERIN' UP ONE KING-SIZE DEATH WISH!
THOSE WERE NAPALM FIRE BOMBS THAT CRATE JUST DROPPED AHEAD OF US!
HIT THAT BRAKE ---AND HIT IT HARD!
BUT, INSTEAD, THE GLEAMING PORSCHE MERELY SPEEDS UP, AND...
WHAT GIVES?
WE COASTED RIGHT THRU THAT WALL OF FIRE--- COOL AS BAKED ALASKA!
NATURALLY, COLONEL! THIS VEHICLE IS CONSTRUCTED OF ALLOYS USED IN THE OUTER HULL OF SPACE CAPSULES!
NOW, PLEASE EXCUSE ME... WHILE I DISPOSE OF THAT PLANE!
FROM HERE? YER PUTTIN' ME ON!
WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO--- SEND 'EM A NASTY TELEGRAM?
YOU'RE NOT AS FAR WRONG AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, COLONEL!
WE ARE SENDING THEM SOMETHING--- TWO SCALED-DOWN SIDEWINDER MISSILES, TO BE EXACT!
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! THE CAR HAS FIRED ROCKETS... HOMING IN ON US!
COMMENCE EVASION TACTICS, AT ONCE!
REPEAT... COMMENCE--
7.


THE FOLLOWING INSTANT, AS THE ENEMY PLANE VANISHES IN A SINGLE, SEARING FLASH OF LIGHT...
KA-BOOOM!
MISTER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YER GAME IS...
BUT, IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' TO IMPRESS ME---YA JUST MADE IT!
...WHICH BRINGS ME AROUND TO MY NEXT LITTLE QUESTION!
I SERVE THE AMERICAN DIVISION OF A SECRET INTER-NATIONAL ORGANI-ZATION!
WHAT AGENCY ARE YA WITH? YOU'VE GOT OUR G-2 WEAPONS BEAT A MILE!
ITS CODE NAME IS... SHIELD!
SHIELD? IT MUST BE TOP SECRET, AWRIGHT!
I'VE GOT PRIORITY CLEARANCE, AND I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF IT!
HEY! WHAT IN SAM HILL--?
DON'T BE ALARMED, COLONEL FURY...
I'M MERELY ACTIVATING THE MECHANISM WHICH CONVERTS THE PORSCHE INTO AN AIR CAR!
WE DON'T DARE WASTE TIME BY STICKING AROUND TO ANSWER ANY POLICE INQUIRIES!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE... YA DIDN'T DREAM UP THESE GIZMOS TO FIGHT LITTERBUGS!
WHO WERE THOSE CRUMBS THAT WERE GUNNIN' FOR US?
THEY WERE AGENTS OF THE MOST DEADLY, RUTHLESS GROUP THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN...
THEY CALL THEM-SELVES... HYDRA!
A FLYING CAR! SO THAT'S HOW SHIELD GOT FURY AWAY FROM US!
THE MASTER WILL BE SORELY DISPLEASED!
AGENT C CALLING SECTION LEADER...TARGET HAS ESCAPED US!
OUR MISSION MUST BE REGARDED AS...A FAILURE!

THUS IT IS THAT, WITHIN MOMENTS, THE FOREMENTIONED SECTION LEADER STEALTHILY APPROACHES A HIGHLY SECRET CHAMBER... SOMEWHERE IN THE VERY HEART OF THE UNSUSPECTING CITY...
MINE WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY... AND MINE THE FAILURE!
BUT, THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE... IS DEATH!
...DEATH ...OR SUCH PUNISHMENT AS SHALL MAKE THE LIVING ENVY THE DEAD!
AND YET, NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FAILED IN ANY MISSION!
PERHAPS THE MASTER WILL BE MERCIFUL... JUST THIS ONCE... JUST THIS ONCE!
BUT, SCANT SECONDS LATER, EVEN SUCH HALTING OPTIMISM AS THIS PROVES BUT A FORLORN HOPE, AS...
AGENT L... MAKE YOUR REPORT... IN THE MOST CONCISE TERMS!
DOES NICK FURY LIVE... OR HAS HE BEEN EXECUTED AS I ORDERED?
HE... LIVES, SIRE! BUT, IT WAS NOT MY FAULT...!
SILENCE!
SPARE ME, AT LEAST, YOUR SNIVELING WHINES OF SELF-PITY!
DO YOU TRULY IMAGINE THERE IS ANYTHING YOU CAN SAY THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR ULTIMATE FATE?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BASEBALL FANS ARE CRAZY

about this true-to-life BASEBALL GAME

• PITCHING • HITTING • FIELDING • RUNNING • MANAGING

Easy to play, real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. 400 big league players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions.

You, the manager, not only decide lineups, insert pinch-hitters, pinch-runners, and relief pitchers, play your infield "in or deep," and make defensive changes at any time, but also call for the sacrifice, steal, hit-and-run, and squeeze-play. All strategy moves are possible with STRAT-O-MATIC.

You have real control over all 400 major league players — who actually hit, pitch, field, and run according to their baseball abilities.

Each player has truly individual qualities. He slumps and goes into hot streaks, performs heroics and commits errors. With STRAT-O-MATIC all qualities of a ballplayer are realistic.

If you like baseball, you'll love to play STRAT-O-MATIC

Get the entire story. Mail coupon for a colorful FREE BROCHURE containing complete information and FREE SAMPLES today! Offer limited. Don't delay. Write today while supply lasts!

FANS RAVE

Here are just a few of the hundreds of letters we receive every week, from baseball fans aged 8 to 80, from coast to coast!

STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —*P. C., Attleboro, Mass.*

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play. —*G. V., Cincinnati, O.*

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games. —*F. T., Manila, P.I.*

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. —*A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.*

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life. —*C. H., Lanett, Ala.*

The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play. —*P. M., Port Huron, Mich.*

Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer. —*N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.*

Boys are waiting in line to play the game! —*A. H., Chicago, Ill.*

It has given me more pleasure than any other game. —*S. E., Rossville, Ind.*

The most exciting and fun game ever. —*L.S., Boston, Mass.*

It is so stupendous, words can't explain. —*J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Best on the market. —*J. E., Miami, Fla.*

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season. —*S. C., Temple City, Calif.*

STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., Inc., Box 541, Great Neck, N. Y. 11020

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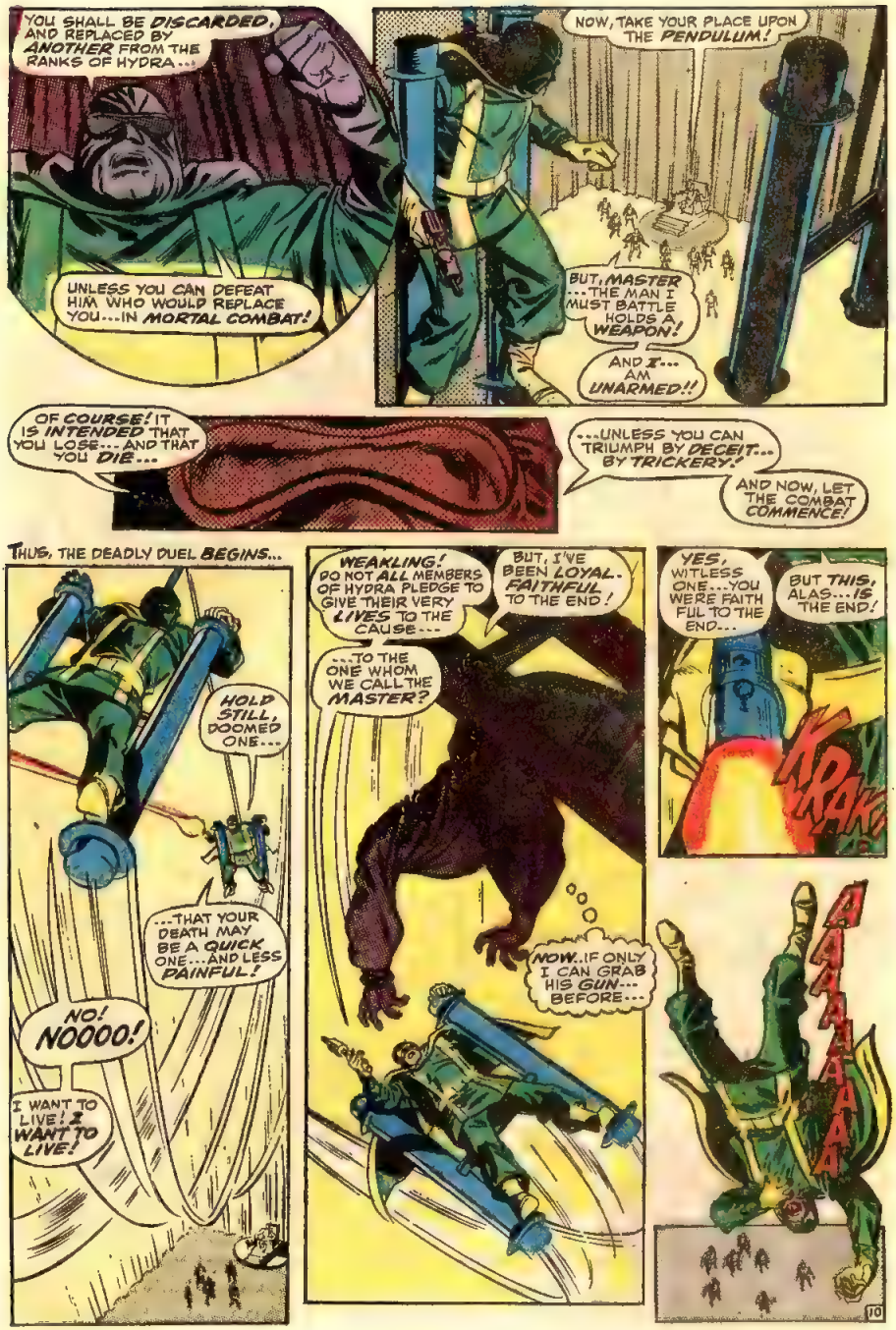
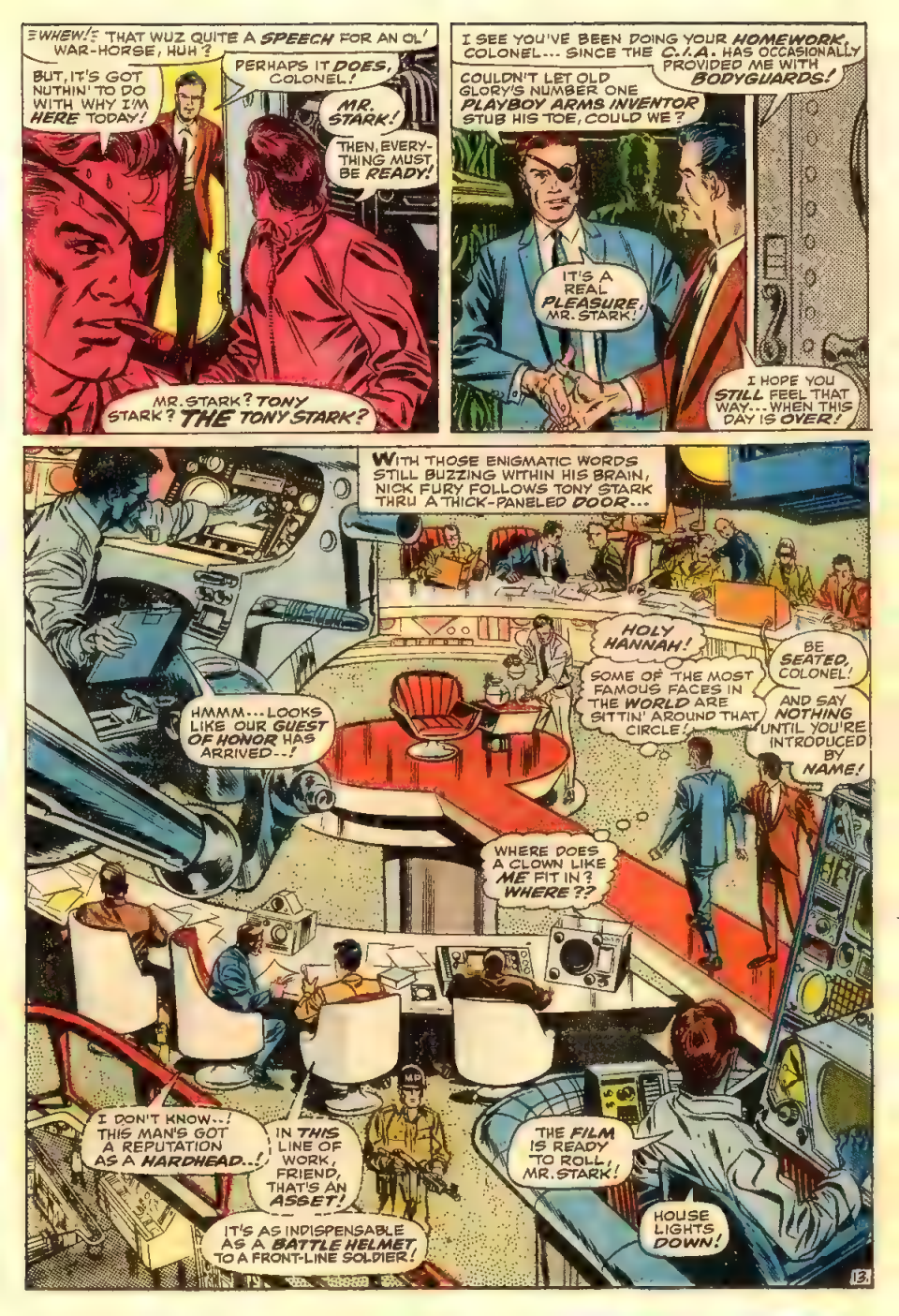
- **Send exciting FREE STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball Game offer and samples via 3rd class mail. (For speedy 1st class delivery, send 12c in coin or stamps.)**
- **Name** _____
- **Address** _____
- **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____


YOU SHALL BE DISCARDED, AND REPLACED BY ANOTHER FROM THE RANKS OF HYDRA...
UNLESS YOU CAN DEFEAT HIM WHO WOULD REPLACE YOU...IN MORTAL COMBAT!
NOW, TAKE YOUR PLACE UPON THE PENDULUM!
BUT, MASTER ...THE MAN I MUST BATTLE HOLDS A WEAPON!
AND I... AM UNARMED!!
OF COURSE! IT IS INTENDED THAT YOU LOSE... AND THAT YOU DIE...
...UNLESS YOU CAN TRIUMPH BY DECEIT... BY TRICKERY!
AND NOW, LET THE COMBAT COMMENCE!
THUS, THE DEADLY DUEL BEGINS...
HOLD STILL, DOOMED ONE...
...THAT YOUR DEATH MAY BE A QUICK ONE... AND LESS PAINFUL!
NO! NOOOO!
I WANT TO LIVE! I WANT TO LIVE!
WEAKLING! DO NOT ALL MEMBERS OF HYDRA PLEDGE TO GIVE THEIR VERY LIVES TO THE CAUSE...
BUT, I'VE BEEN LOYAL... FAITHFUL TO THE END!
...TO THE ONE WHOM WE CALL THE MASTER?
NOW..IF ONLY I CAN GRAB HIS GUN... BEFORE...
YES, WITLESS ONE... YOU WERE FAITH FUL TO THE END...
BUT THIS, ALAS... IS THE END!
KRAK
AAAAAAAA

THEN, AS A LIFELESS FORM SPRAWLS, FACE DOWN, ON THE MARBLED FLOOR...
HE WILL FAIL YOU NO MORE, MASTER!
PREPARE TO UNMASK, AGENT H... AND JOIN THE CIRCLE OF ASSASSINS!
FOR, YOU ARE THE FIRST FEMALE EVER TO ATTAIN SO EXALTED A RANK!
SPEAK, NOW, THE OATH WHICH HAS BEEN SWORN IN BLOOD!
HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA!
WE SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED!
CUT OFF A LIMB... AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!
WE SERVE NONE BUT THE MASTER ...AS THE WORLD SHALL SOON SERVE US!
HAIL HYDRA!
WHILE, IN A DARKENED ROOM, NOT FAR AWAY... AND YET COUNTLESS WORLDS DISTANT...NICK FURY WAITS..!
SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY, COLONEL!
BUT, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN WITH YOU... THERE MUST BE A FINAL CHECK...
BEFORE YOU CAN BE ADMITTED TO THE INNER COUNCIL OF SHIELD!
ME, I WAS JUST THINKIN' ABOUT ALL THE THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN TO A JOE IN ONE LIFETIME...
PLAY ALL THE GAMES YA WANT, MAC--- I'M ON THE GOVERNMENT PAYROLL, Y'KNOW!
...AND WONDERIN' HOW A MULE-HEADED EX-COMMANDO EVER WOUND UP HERE... WHEREVER I AM!

IT AIN'T EXACTLY NO BED OF ROSES BACK IN THE BIG ONE — NO MATTER WHAT ANDA NUTTY MOVIES THEY MAKE ABOUT IT NOWADAYS!
MEBBE WE DIDN'T HAVE THE A-BOMB HANGIN' OVER OUR HEADS... BUT IT NEVER KILLED ANYBODY DEADER THAN A NAZI LUGER!
SEEMS LIKE ME AN THE HOWLERS BLASTED OR CRAWLED... OUR WAY OUTTA EVERY P.O.W. CAMP IN THE E.T.O.!
...NOT TO MENTION A COUPLE IN THE PACIFIC!
LAND .. SEA .. OR AIR...
YOU NAME IT, AND WE FOUGHT IN IT...
OR ON IT...MEBBE EVEN UNDER IT!
GUESS I M STILL FIGHTIN' MY WAR IN A WAY .. ONLY NOW, THE BATTLES ARE USUALLY A LITTLE QUIETER... WITH FEWER HEAD-LINES...
...AN' THE BATTLE-GROUND'S AS LIABLE TO BE A BACK ALLEY AS A MINED BEACH-HEAD!


WHEW!... THAT WUZ QUITE A SPEECH FOR AN OL' WAR-HORSE, HUH?
BUT, IT'S GOT NUTHIN' TO DO WITH WHY I'M HERE TODAY!
PERHAPS IT DOES, COLONEL!
MR. STARK!
THEN, EVERYTHING MUST BE READY!
MR. STARK? TONY STARK? THE TONY STARK?
I SEE YOU'VE BEEN DOING YOUR HOMEWORK, COLONEL... SINCE THE C.I.A. HAS OCCASIONALLY PROVIDED ME WITH BODYGUARDS!
COULDN'T LET OLD GLORY'S NUMBER ONE PLAYBOY ARMS INVENTOR STUB HIS TOE, COULD WE?
IT'S A REAL PLEASURE, MR. STARK!
I HOPE YOU STILL FEEL THAT WAY... WHEN THIS DAY IS OVER!
WITH THOSE ENIGMATIC WORDS STILL BUZZING WITHIN HIS BRAIN, NICK FURY FOLLOWS TONY STARK THRU A THICK-PANELED DOOR...
HOLY HANNAH!
SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS FACES IN THE WORLD ARE SITTIN' AROUND THAT CIRCLE!
BE SEATED, COLONEL!
AND SAY NOTHING UNTIL YOU'RE INTRODUCED BY NAME!
HMMM... LOOKS LIKE OUR GUEST OF HONOR HAS ARRIVED--!
WHERE DOES A CLOWN LIKE ME FIT IN? WHERE??
I DON'T KNOW..! THIS MAN'S GOT A REPUTATION AS A HARDHEAD..!
IN THIS LINE OF WORK, FRIEND, THAT'S AN ASSET!
IT'S AS INDISPENSABLE AS A BATTLE HELMET TO A FRONT-LINE SOLDIER!
THE FILM IS READY TO ROLL, MR. STARK!
HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN!
MP
13

NEXT, AS THE HEAVILY-GUARDED CHAMBER IS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS...
POINT, MR. STARK? WHY DON'TCHA GET TO THE WHY AM I HERE? AND WHERE ARE WE?
THAT, YOU SHALL LEARN, COLONEL...
...AFTER YOU OBSERVE OUR FILM!
OKAY, OKAY... SO I'M A ONE-MAN CAPTIVE AUDIENCE!
BUT, IF IT COMES ON LIKE ONE BIG COMMERCIAL, I'M CUTTIN' OUT!
"IF IT DOES," NARRATES TONY STARK, "IT WON'T SOUND LIKE A FREE PLUG FOR SHIELD ... BUT FOR THE SINISTER GROUP KNOWN AS... HYDRA..!"
"YES, COLONEL... THOSE ARE HYDRA'S PLANES, SHIPS AND SUBS ---AN ARSENAL LARGER THAN THAT OF MOST ENTIRE NATIONS..."
"THESE CAPTURED FILMS SHOW HOW MIND-STAGGERING... HOW ALMOST LIMITLESS ...IS THE POWER OF HYDRA ...BUT THEY DON'T TELL US ...WHERE THE ORGANIZATION'S SECRET HQ IS LOCATED..."
"AND, AS FOR ITS LEADERSHIP, WE KNOW ONLY THAT IT IS HEADED BY ONE MAN... THE SUPREME HYDRA ...A SINISTER FIGURE DEDICATED TO THE VERY DOWNFALL OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT..."
19

AWRIGHT, THE LIGHTS ARE BACK ON--SO IT'S PITCH TIME!
YOU DIDN'T BRING ME HERE JUST TO WATCH HOME MOVIES!
YER RINGIN' THE CIA IN ON THIS LITTLE SHINDIG, RIGHT?
WRONG! WE WANT YOU--TO BE DIRECTOR OF SHIELD!
ME? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!
YOU SAW THAT FILM CLIP, COLONEL!
DOES IT STRIKE YOU AS SOMETHING WE'D JOKE ABOUT?
NO... BUT, I'D BE... OUTTA MY LEAGUE!
THE TOP MINDS IN AMERICA, COLONEL, THINK YOUR ENTIRE LIFE QUALIFIES YOU FOR THE JOB.
IT DEMANDS A MAN WHO'LL BE AS DEVOTED TO FREEDOM... AS HYDRA IS TO ITS DESTRUCTION!
WELL, WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
LEMME... THINK ABOUT IT--!
VERY WELL!
BUT, TIME'S RUNNING OUT, COLONEL... MAYBE FOR THE WORLD!
IF THEY WANT ME... I WANNA DO IT!
STILL, I'M JUST A THREE-STRIPER AT HEART, AN...
WHAT'S THE WIRE UNDER MY FOOT??!
HEY! WHAT IN SAM HILL..?
THERE AIN'T NO REASON FOR IT TO BE THERE... UNLESS...
COLONEL! WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU..??
GET EVERYBODY UNDER COVER, STARK!
THIS EX-HOWLER CAN SMELL A BOOBY TRAP A MILE OFF...
...AND THIS IS IT!
RRIP!
THERE'S A BOMB INSIDE THIS CHAIR!
DIDN'T YOU EGGHEADS HEAR ME?
I SAID MOVE IT!
THRU THAT PORTHOLE, COLONEL... FAST!
I AIN'T EXACTLY HEADIN' FOR THE REST ROOM, CHARLIE!
I DUNNO WHAT'S OUTSIDE THIS PORTHOLE...
KRASH!
BUT, CAN'T LET IT BLOW IN HERE!
IT'D KILL HALF THE LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD WITH ONE BIG KA-BOOM!
15

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Fellows! HERE'S A SWELL WAY TO MAKE LOTS OF MONEY and WIN PRIZES TOO!

30,000 Boys 12 or older **Sell GRIT** *"America's Greatest Family Newspaper"* MANY MAKE **$1 to $5 Weekly**

in a few hours of their spare time

GRIT sells for 15¢ — YOU MAKE 5¢ PROFIT on every copy

Fellows, it's fun to have a GRIT business of your own. You can build it as large as you want it—make lots of money and win prizes too. GRIT is easy to sell. It is the popular publication every week in more than 1,100,000 homes.

Over 75 PRIZES offered

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GRIT will help you get started in a profitable business and send you papers and selling helps. You pay **only for the papers you sell** until you learn how many to order.

Print Name and Address Below

If You Are a Boy 12 Years Old or Older

MAIL THIS TODAY

In an Envelope

GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, Pa. 17701 MC8-8

Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers.

Name .....

Are You a Boy? ..... Age ..... Date Born ..... Year .....

In Care of .....

Street and No. ..... R. F. D. .....

Post Office ..... State .....

Zip Code No. .....

Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

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2 COMPLETE ARMIES

EVERY PIECE OF PURE MOLDED PLASTIC—EACH ON ITS OWN BASE. TWO COMPLETE ARMIES—THE BRITISH RED-COATS AND THE AMERICAN BLUECOATS! RE-LIVE AGAIN THE FAMOUS BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION! FORM YOUR OWN BATTLE LINES! HOURS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

IMAGINARY WAR SCENE SHOWN

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET:

- 38 Dragoons (Cavalrymen)
- 12 Shooting Infantrymen
- 12 Marching Infantrymen
- 12 Crouching Infantrymen
- 12 Officers
- 12 Charging Infantrymen
- 12 Sharpshooters
- 12 Field Cannon
- 12 Cannon Loaders
- 12 Drummers
- 12 Minute Men
- 24 Mohawk Indians
- 12 Officers
- 12 Hessian Troops

RUSH COUPON TODAY

NO C.O.D.'s

Revolutionary War Soldiers Dept. RWM 2
Box 888, Westbury, Long Island, N.Y. 11590

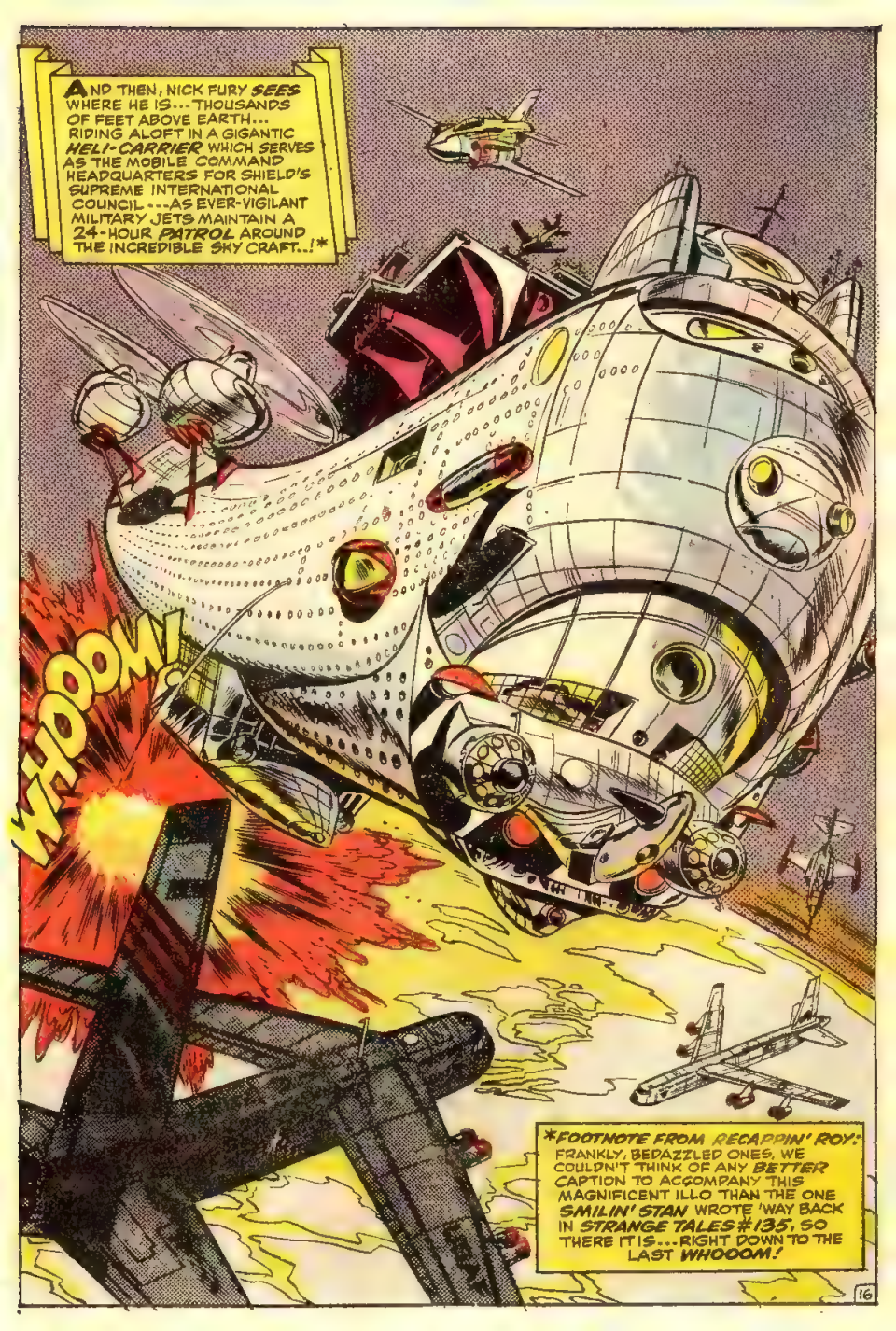
Gentlemen,
Here's my $1.98. Rush 204 pc. Revolutionary War Soldiers Set to me. If not satisfied I may return merchandise for full refund!

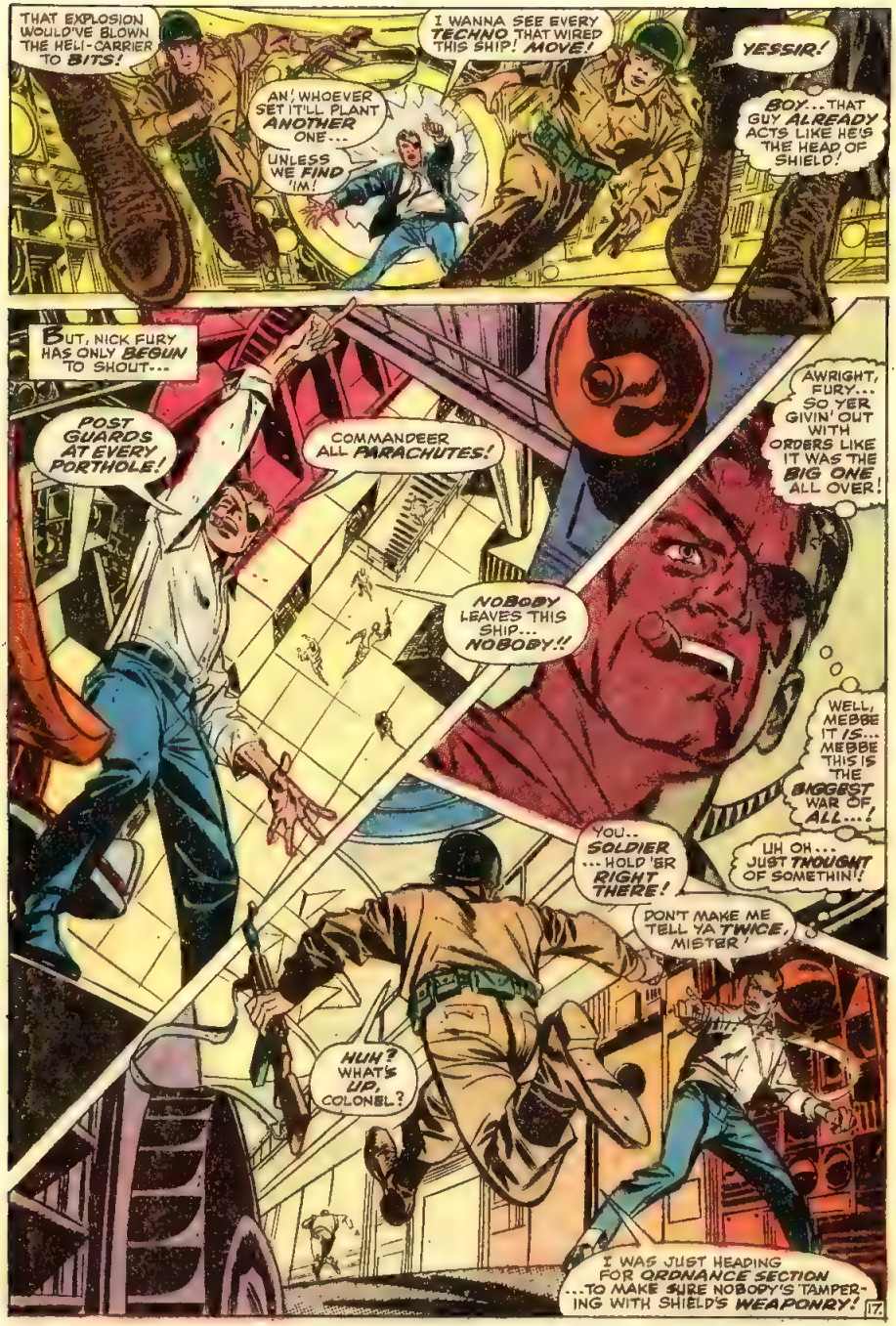
Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Zip ..... State .....

Canadian orders: Send International money order for $2.50.


AND THEN, NICK FURY SEES WHERE HE IS--THOUSANDS OF FEET ABOVE EARTH... RIDING ALOFT IN A GIGANTIC HELI-CARRIER WHICH SERVES AS THE MOBILE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS FOR SHIELD'S SUPREME INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL---AS EVER-VIGILANT MILITARY JETS MAINTAIN A 24-HOUR PATROL AROUND THE INCREDIBLE SKY CRAFT...!*
WHOOOM!
*FOOTNOTE FROM RECAPPIN' ROY: FRANKLY, BEDAZZLED ONES, WE COULDN'T THINK OF ANY BETTER CAPTION TO ACCOMPANY THIS MAGNIFICENT ILLO THAN THE ONE SMILIN' STAN WROTE 'WAY BACK IN STRANGE TALES #135, SO THERE IT IS...RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST WHOOOM!


THAT EXPLOSION WOULD'VE BLOWN THE HELI-CARRIER TO BITS!
I WANNA SEE EVERY TECHNO THAT WIRED THIS SHIP! MOVE!
YESSIR!
AN' WHOEVER SET IT'LL PLANT ANOTHER ONE...
UNLESS WE FIND 'IM!
BOY...THAT GUY ALREADY ACTS LIKE HE'S THE HEAD OF SHIELD!
BUT, NICK FURY HAS ONLY BEGUN TO SHOUT...
POST GUARDS AT EVERY PORTHOLE!
COMMANDEER ALL PARACHUTES!
NOBODY LEAVES THIS SHIP... NOBODY!!
AWRIGHT, FURY... SO YER GIVIN' OUT WITH ORDERS LIKE IT WAS THE BIG ONE ALL OVER!
WELL, MEBBE IT IS... MEBBE THIS IS THE BIGGEST WAR OF ALL...!
UH OH... JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHIN'!
YOU.. SOLDIER ...HOLD 'ER RIGHT THERE!
DON'T MAKE ME TELL YA TWICE, MISTER!
HUH? WHAT'S UP, COLONEL?
I WAS JUST HEADING FOR ORDNANCE SECTION ...TO MAKE SURE NOBODY'S TAMPERING WITH SHIELD'S WEAPONRY!

THAT CAN WAIT!
I WANT YOUR NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER, FRIEND... AND I WANT IT FAST!
YESSIR! I'M CHARLES ATKINS... CORPORAL--- SERIAL NUMBER 35067731!
OKAY... WE'LL GIVE YOU A C+ ON THAT!
I JUST REMEMBERED THAT--- JUST BEFORE I FOUND THAT BOOBY-TRAP, I SAW YOU EDGIN' TOWARDS THE DOOR!
HOW DO YA EXPLAIN THAT LITTLE FACT, SONNY?
WHY, I... I'M SURE YOU'RE MISTAKEN, COLONEL FURY!
ARE YA NOW?
THEN TRY THIS ON FER SIZE, MISTER!
STARK TOLD ME ONLY THE TOP BRASS KNEW WHO I WAS...
AND NOBODY'S CALLED ME "COLONEL FURY" SINCE I STEPPED IN THE DOOR!
NOBODY--- BUT YOU!
ALLUVA SUDDEN, I AIN'T GETTIN' MUCH STATIC FROM YOU, SOLDIER...
COULDN'T BE 'CAUSE IT WAS YOU...NOT A TECHNO... WHO WIRED THAT CHAIR, COULD IT?
NO... NO... I...
SUDDENLY, WITH RAPIDITY EXCEEDING EVEN THAT OF THE WEAPON HE HOLDS, THE NERVOUS SOLDIER ACTS...
ALL RIGHT, FURY---
YOU MERELY HASTENED YOUR OWN DOOM, BY TRICKING ME INTO REVEALING MYSELF!
NOW, DIE!--- HUH?? I MISSED..!
DA-RATATATA!
YEAH--- SO I NOTICED!
AS A MATTER'A FACT, YOU HYDRA HOODS AIN'T GOT MUCH OF A TRACK RECORD FOR TODAY!
MEBBE IT'S TIME YOU WUZ SENT TO THE SHOWERS, PAL!
SWOK!
OOOFF!

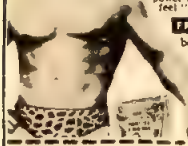
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SHOP BY MAIL — STAMPS

Check the Kind of Body You Want

. . . and I'll Show You How EASILY You Can Have It!

Just tell me, in coupon below, the kind of body you want—and I'll give it to you SO FAST your friends will be amazed! "Dynamic-Tension," my easy 15-minutes-a-day method, will make your chest and shoulders bulge . . . arms and legs surge with power . . . your whole body feel "alive"!



FREE BOOK Learn how I became "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man." Mail coupon for my free illustrated 32-page book CHARLES ATLAS Dept. 60H 115 E. 23rd St. N.Y.C 10010

CHARLES ATLAS, DEPT. 60H
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Dear Charles Atlas: Here's the Kind of Body I want: (Check as many as you like)

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☐ More Solid Weight ☐ Slimmer Waist, Hips

Send me FREE a copy of your 32-page book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can make me a new man. No obligation. (Please Print Plainly)

Name.....Age.....
Address.....
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WHAK!
THEN, AS THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN SINKS TO THE METAL FLOOR...
GO ON...KILL ME! IT'S ALL I DESERVE!
THOSE WHO FAIL HYDRA CAN HOPE FOR NOTHING...BUT DEATH!
MEBBE THAT'S HOW YOUR OUTFIT OPERATES, MISTER...
BUT, THAT AIN'T THE WAY THE CIA...OR SHIELD... DOES THINGS!
OKAY, GUARDS...TAKE 'IM TO OUR VERSION OF THE BRIG!
"OUR" FURY? YOU ACT AS IF... YOU'VE ACCEPTED THE JOB WE OFFERED..!
YEAH, I GUESS I DO, AT THAT!
LOOK, STARK, LEMME ASK YOU JUST ONE FINAL QUESTION...
DO THOSE HYDRA CRUMBS REALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO OVER-THROW WORLD-WIDE LAW AN' ORDER?
IT SEEMS THAT WAY, COLONEL!
THEN, IT'S THEM... OR US!
EXACTLY!
OKAY, STARK... YOU JUST ANSWERED MY LITTLE QUESTION!
LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST SIGNED UP ONE OL' WAR-HORSE... FOR THE DURATION!
JUST DON'T SPELL MY NAME WRONG ON MY OFFICE!
19

GENTLEMEN, MY WORK HERE IS DONE! SHIELD HAS FOUND... A LEADER!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY HAS TO SMASH HYDRA!
SO, IT MIGHT AS WELL BE ME!!
KLIK!
BRAVE WORDS, COLONEL FURY... PERHAPS ALMOST AS COURAGEOUS AS THEY ARE FOOL-HARDY!
FOR, THE EYES OF HYDRA ARE WITHOUT NUMBER... AND THEY ARE EVERY-WHERE!
AND, HYDRA IS IMMORTAL...
WHILE YOU, MY DEAR DIRECTOR OF SHIELD, ARE NOT!
SO, WE SHALL PLAY YOUR LITTLE GAME, NICK FURY... AND SEE, IN THE END, WHETHER IT IS SHIELD OR HYDRA WHICH SURVIVES!!
THUS IT BEGAN--- AND THUS HAS IT CONTINUED, ALMOST TO THIS VERY DAY--- THIS UNENDING, VICTORY-LESS WAR BETWEEN THOSE WHO WOULD REDUCE CIVILIZATION TO SMOKING RUBBLE--- AND THOSE WHO WOULD DEFEND THE LIBERTIES FOR WHICH MEN HAVE FOUGHT AND DIED--- THE DEDICATED AGENTS OF SHIELD!!
20

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

MORE HYSTERICAL HOOPLA AND HANGUPS FROM YOUR HOWLIN' HOUSE OF IDEAS!

ITEM! Remember when STAN THE MAN wrote just about every superhero yarn we published during the early days of Marvel? Well, the reason we've been able to expand our output and to bring you more of the mags you've been clamoring for is because we've gradually found other scripters who've been able to capture the mad, modern Marvel mood. The first of these sensational scribes is our now-associate editor, Rascally ROY THOMAS, our poker-playing pundit of the pandemonious plot! Next, we latched onto an old buddy of Roy's, Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH, our swingin', zingin', folk-song-singin' assistant ed. But, not content to rest on our laurels, we were lucky enough to snare Affable ARCHIE GOODWIN, former editor, author, and blushin' bon vivant, who brings his own scintillatin' style to the majesty of Marvel. And now, just a few months later, we announce with pride that another two stalwarts who've toiled elsewhere for lo these many years have finally seen the light and joined the ranks of True Believers here at the batty Bullpen. (We'll introduce 'em in another ish!) So, where once there was just poor, slavin', long-suffering Stan, our leader now has five fabulous, far-out fantasy-writin' friends to help us prove we mean it when we say: "Hang onto your hat, hero — Marvel's taking over the world!" (Or, wouldja believe Yancy Street?)

ITEM! But, with every bit of good news, there is often its exact opposite. And so, with heavy hearts, we announce the departure of one of the Bullpen's most popular pixies — Fabulous FLO STEINBERG who bids us a fond farewell to seek her fortunes in another field of endeavor. Lovely Fab had won the collective hearts of Marveldom Assembled in the years during which she helped to answer the ever-growing mountain of mail which sometimes threatened to engulf us all. Face Front, Flo! The best of luck to you where e'er you go.

ITEM! For those of you who've been vacationing on another planet for the past few months, we're gonna repeat the six swingin' ranks of Marveldom for serious study and transcendental meditation! Now for Odin's sake, memorize 'em carefully, 'cause we're starting to get writers' cramp!

RFO (Real Frantic One): A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags each month.

QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer): A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

TTB (Titanic True Believer): A divinely-inspired no-prize winner.

KOF (Keeper Of the Flame): One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.

PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus): Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

FFF (Fearless Front Facer): An honorary title, bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

But, even if you're just a lowly F.F.M. (Futile Forbush-Man, natch!), take heart, hero — we love you just the same.

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This one's a real surprise! You've seen Herb Trimpe's name listed as "inker" all over the place in our mags. Well, a few weeks ago we saw some of his original drawings and realized that we've had an exciting, top-notch penciller hidden right under our quivering noses! So, not being shy, we asked Happy Herbie what he'd like to draw, and he told us. It seems that Mr. Trimpe is a dyed-in-the-wool fan of World War I airplane dogfights! And, since the rest of your Bullpen are shameless superhero fans, we decided to combine the two. Which is just our long-winded way of telling you not to dare miss MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16, which features one of the most daringly different superheroes of all — The Phantom Eagle! And now, we've gotta cut out — Country Joe and the Fish just arrived to visit us — and we don't wanna keep 'em out of the water too long!

Excelsior,

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE 35¢ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1: Last chance, web-spinners! The great second ish goes on sale next month, and these'll be gone forever. We couldn't sleep nights if we thought you'd missed the longest Spidey saga ever presented! And oh, that artwork!

NOT BRAND ECHH #9: This one, too, is on sale for a second month, to make sure that no Flame-Keeper among you misses it. It's got more pages, laughs, and lunacy than ever before. And dig those sizzlin' stuporheroes!

SILVER SURFER #1: Featuring the longest, and possibly the greatest Origin story ever illustrated! There's no doubt about it — the Silver Surfer is certain to equal Spidey himself in popularity! And we should worry — they're both ours!

FANTASTIC FOUR #78: The story fandom has long awaited! Never has the super-powerful Thing faced a grimmer problem — or been forced to make a more desperate decision! It's dynamite! And, wait'll you see who the villain is!

SPIDER-MAN #64: Now that Spidey knows the Vulture lives again, he has to answer another question — how can one lone wall-crawler, with more problems than he can wiggle a web at, defeat the most deadly foe of all?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

AVENGERS #55: So you think you learned the full secret of the dread Crimson Cow! last ish? Well don't believe it, pilgrim . . . till you see the Avengers slug it out to the finish with his malevolent Masters of Evil! Hooo-boy!

X-MEN #47: The spotlight this month is on Iceman and the ever-exciting Beast, as they clash head-on with the mysterious Maha Yogi! And, when you find out who he really is, you'll know why he's a lot more dangerous than he sounds!

DAREDEVIL #43: No, it's not a gag! It's not an (echh!) imaginary tale! It's for real! DD finally battles the one and only — Captain America — with no punches pulled! It's the action-hit of the month — a brain-blaster!

MIGHTY THOR #155: Truly one of Thor's most epic sagas! Although the Thunder God has battled many foes before, never has any come as close to the destruction of the entire universe as has — Mangog! This one's a must!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #105: Zowie! Look who's back — none other than the bludgeoning Batroc, accompanied by the Living Laser and the sinister Swordsman! For fantastic action beyond compare, wait'll you see Cap tackle "Batroc's Brigade"!

INCREDIBLE HULK #107: Our green-skinned golem faces not one, but three deadly threats . . . the far-eastern counterpart of Shield, the menacing Mandarin — and perhaps the one thing that even his titanic strength can't combat!

IRON MAN #5: Possibly the most unusual transistorized saga of all, as our great golden avenger rockets into the far future, where public enemy number one is none other than . . . Tony Stark! And wait'll you meet Cerebrus!

SUB-MARINER #5: For all those frantic ones who thought we'd never come up with a non-Atlantean underwater baddie for Namor to fight, we proudly present the one and only Tiger Shark! He's deep-six dynamite!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #5: Who — or what — is the amazing Metazoid? Don't even try to guess — until you see him come face to face with the spaceman called Mar-Vell in an action-packed, TNT-charged duel to the death! 'Nuff said!

DR. STRANGE #172: Dormammu's back — and Doc Strange has got him! Or, is it the other way around? And, breathes there a Marvelite who'll dare miss Gentleman Gene Colan's great art job on our favorite mystic master?

SGT. FURY #57: It's a mission of mercy, as Fury and his hard-hittin' Howlers plummet into Hitler-land to rescue Jim Morita's captured Nisei Squad from a Nazi POW camp! Need we say more, battle-mag buffs?

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #5: Who but mind-bending Marvel would dare put out a war-mag about . . . a counterfeiting plot? But, if you think they're in for a milk run — forget it! It's a block-bustin', brain-boggling blast!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #16: The FF, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, and the Hulk in some of the greatest, never-to-be-forgotten epics from the past! When we call it a collectors' item, we're not just whistlin' "The Merry Marvel Mazurka!"

MARVEL TALES #16: The Beetle — Tomorrow Man — Plant Man — and the sinister Serpent! (Against Spidey, Thor, the torrid Torch, and Marvel Boy, natch!) A foursome of the most senses-staggering battles since the Bulge!

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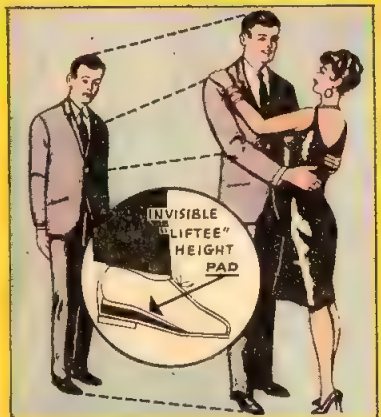

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Just in case you're wondering why this ish was done by the awesome abilities of Frank Springer, and not the towering talents of Jim Steranko, it's because the jaunty one is hard at work on the development of a brand-new Marvel literary and artistic trail-blazer! Watch for it! (But Jim will be back, next issue!)

Dear Stan,

This is a letter of advice from a long-loyal Marvel fan who wants Marvel to stay the greatest. Ish #1 of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD was the most horrible disgrace to Marvel that I have ever laid eyes on! You had a much better story in #135 of STRANGE TALES than any that you have published in the last six months. SHIELD has really gone to the dogs. For one thing, Jim Steranko may be a tip-top card shark, carnival man, etcetera, but as a plotter and scripter, he just doesn't have it. Put a qualified writer on the mag and you will be started on the right road. Have him write down-to-Earth stories. Stan, as a professional writer, you must know that SHIELD #1 was truly amateurish writing. Sensationalism. Marvel used to portray the world as it really is, and in your more popular publications, it still does. But how could anyone (except the clods who bought the mag to flip through it and exclaim, "oooooh, psychedelic!!") relate any of that garbage in #1 to anything in real life? You've taken two fifty-year-old war veterans, and twisted their activities to follow the fads of a few of your younger generation Marvelites. And don't say that you're giving the people what they want either, because I know the mag was more popular when it was written by a trained writer. Give the people what they really want: believable stories in a mortal atmosphere. They don't want to read about an indestructable god with an infallible brain and body. Please, for the sake of the name Marvel, rescue Nick Fury from the gutters of sensationalism, and send him back to his former high standards of good taste.

Edward Romero, 1212 Valentia
Denver, Colorado 80220

Ed, wish there was something we could say to change your mind about SHIELD! Better yet, how about reading some of SHIELD's mail to enlighten you on a point or two you may have missed in our story content! Also, we trust it'll change your mind about those who enjoyed it! *Clods they ain't!!*

Dear Stan and Jim,

It isn't very difficult to imagine just what transpires when Rockin' Robin (Fabulous Flo isn't here any more) hands Stan Lee the latest Jim Steranko manuscript. Stan the Man examines the pages before him; momentarily puzzled. Sentences sear into the brain tissue, stabbing bolts literally leap from the printed page into the sub-conscious. The manuscript probably begins with: FADE IN: (TEASER) A STONE TOWER — ESTABLISHING SETTING — NIGHT IN SILHOUETTE. 6 pages in the script's bold black type conveys further images. I suppose that it would read like this: BABY: "I guess everything's going to be okay, now! Except the weather! Looks like it's starting to . . ." INTERCUT — Val and Nick — Val: "rain. They say it makes you beautiful!" And Stan leans back in his worn chair and sighs, "I wonder how long it's going to take Jim to remember that he's on Madison Ave. and not in Hollywood." The director at the Marvel Bull-pen sits there for a moment, lost in thought, and then says, "But whatever, this is going to make a smash premiere issue for SHIELD." And it did, seriously, make a grand debut. "Who is Scorpio?" is one of the most deeply penetrating portraits in literature yet to pour forth from the pen of this talented writer/artist. It is possible to write in depth on almost any given panel on any given page that Steranko illustrates. But which one should be given the attention? The cover? A combination of op art, intricately woven mazes of children's building blocks, carefully positioned figures. The splash panel? Point of view shot complete with mood and atmosphere, shadows extending cast by a barren moon. Or would one contemplate and analyze the panel in which Nick Fury ponders his latest mystery, cool and relaxed until a faint film of sweat drips down his face. Perhaps, a few words might suffice for almost every page: symmetry. Symmetry and purpose, they are the key words to every page Steranko brings to life. The word reality insists on being admitted into the proceedings. There is a reality about the events and characters that comments on life and existence, which is a perfect blend of pacing and complications. Steranko's words are powerful complements to the illustrations, capturing entire lives, separate and distinct lives which are apart from one another yet woven together in the mass of humanity. A brief montage shot of Flip Mason standing in a booth while thinking of his wife and child moments before his entire universe is ended is a minor masterpiece. This in itself would be cause for sufficent examination. The nuances of characters, the span of a life-time (Flip Mason's) are expressed in merely one searing black and white image. A telephone cord dangling down the length of a page, across the lives of those who witness the event, mirrors the thin thread which is life dangling tantalizingly before all of us. The concluding panel in this premiere issue is black and white, deathly still and somber, and closes with stunning impact. What further words can I say than these to express it all . . . "and it rained most of that day . . . and far into the night."

Donald F. McGregor, 43 Wildwood Ave.
Providence, Rhode Island 02907

We were overwhelmed by Don's definitive analysis of SHIELD's premiere Ish! Stan said he couldn't have put it better himself! Thanks, Don . . . eloquently written!

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Dear Stan and Jim,

WOW! That one word keeps ringing in my addlepated, anguished, and atomized cerebrum. The cause? Naught but Jim Steranko and the premiere issue of SHIELD. Steranko is undoubtedly the most mind-shattering, metaphysical-schtutinizing, mystical-substantiating scenographer in this vast Einsteinian universe. He's here and he's now! Jaunty Jim is Marshall McLuhan, Andy Warhol and Rudi Gernreich all condensed into a single and uniquely gifted mortal. This is exactly where it's at (why do they keep looking?). Marvel always speaks the language of today, but Steranko touches on tomorrow. There are more realistic artists around (passed out somewhere in that nefarious Marvel bullpen), but none capture the essence of our dynamic, perplexing, and provocative age like Steranko. The comic, which had become aesthetically stagnant and totally divorced from the tempo of cultural change during the '50's, is now a symbol of the new "global village." It records, albeit through exaggeration, the sociological impact of modern technology, and translates that force into a boundless arena of total involvement. And, of this translation, Jim Steranko is master. So, until Jasper Sitwell turns cammie, make mine Marvel. It's the only way to phlie.

Steve Shuchart, c/o AETT House
828 Broadway, New Orleans, La. 70118

Hey, Steve, we turned your masterful missive over to SHIELD's CODE and CIPHER CENTER 'cause we weren't quite sure what you had in mind! After that, Jaunty Jim took the letter home, framed it and hung it above his drawing board!

Dear Stan and Jim,

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #1 was utterly marvelous. Jim Steranko makes a great team. His plots and subplots are magnificently interwoven. His art is simply psychedelic. Jaunty Jim is by far your best artist. By the way, the sinister Scorpio is none other than that dastardly demon, the Druid. SHIELD has some of the best titles I've ever read, such as "Who is Scorpio?", "Behold the Savage Sky!", "And the Dragon Cried . . . Death!", "When Comes . . . Black Noon!", and "Today Earth Died!" Keep up the fantastic work. From a simple filler, you have one of the best running series in comics history. By the way, anyone who wants to know anything about the Comics Code can go to the public library. There, under art literature, they shall find a book called *Americana in Four Colors*. This is published by the Comics Code and gives a number of interesting facts. Don't Yield — Buy SHIELD!

Steven Grant, 5805 Meadowood Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Thanks for the note, we're sure a number of readers will want to know about comic censorship and the CODE! By the way, Steve, Scorpio isn't the Druid, either! We told you he was tricky!

Gentlemen:

Like most of your other readers, I never entertained the least idea of writing you — that is until now. I've just completed the first edition of SHIELD comics and cannot quite believe what I have read. For many years I have followed most of the Marvel characters and of course have my many likes and dislikes about them. With this edition, though, you have outdone yourselves by coming up with one of the most interesting stories I have ever read — in comics or in "legitimate" literature. In fact, I believe you have succeeded in bringing the comic book into that category on the basis of this one issue alone. This is not to say that the rest of your work is the typical adult's conception of a comic book — strictly for kids — far from it. Your magazines have always been so far superior to any other in the field that any comparison is ludicrous. With your latest effort, however, you have come up with something that will, if continued, revamp the entire industry. The artwork — especially the center pages — was magnificent as usual. What you really deserve compliments on, though, is the truly fine blending of several more-or-less complex plot lines into one fluid story, and in the space of only twenty pages. Above all, the last two pages are the finest I have ever read in a comic magazine, and surpass most attempts at fiction that are being made today. Again, congratulations on a brilliant job, and as long as you continue to put out such magnificent work, you have a devoted reader waiting for your next issue.

Mike Richmond, 219 W. Trinity Ave.
Durham, N. C.

Glad you liked it, Mike! We have to tell it like it is: the response to SHIELD's first solo ish knocked us out with its unflinching approval on this new style of story! Jim tells us he promises to make every script as daring, dynamic and different as possible! And when this guy says it . . . look out!

Dear Stan, Nick and Val:

According to my vast resources (which are seldom accurate) I think I may have an answer to everybody's question: who was Scorpio? He was a humanoid-android created by Doctor Doom who is being paid a considerable amount of money (by what HYDRA agents there are who weren't on HYDRA Island when it was demolished) to destroy SHIELD. This tends to explain where the power of the key to the Zodiac really comes from — the secret arsenal of Doctor Doom in Latveria. Even more startling are results which just came from my Tele-computation-affector that also point out that Scorpio could be Jimmy Woo, fulfilling his oath that he made in ish #166 of STRANGE TALES. Scorpio mentioned such an oath on page 16 panel 4 in ish #1 of NICK FURY. On the 6th panel of that page Scorpio says "Scorpio is well-versed in the ways of acrobatics!" — Just as an FBI man would be. I can't say in words how I feel inside about Jim Steranko's plots! They're even better than his art, which in itself is . . . ?????!! Although Flip Mason had nothing whatsoever to do with the SHIELD story, Jim had him fit in there nicely, being the cause of the battle in which the mysterious Scorpio died. DIED? And just Flip's being there made the story much more realistic. The Scorpion on the racing driver's wrist has, I believe, no significance with the story. It merely arouses the reader's attention and is soon forgotten in the action that follows. My Tele-computation-affector reports that the driver, Count Julio Scarlotti, was probably born under the sign of Scorpio and that is why he wears that tattoo. Further investigation with my Historatar proves the report of the Tele-computation-affector to be correct. COUNT SCARLOTTI, JULIO: Born 1929. Parents, Duke of Conlavier in Latveria, Duchess Scarlotti . . . Verial, Vera. Schooled, Private tutor Baron Von Herscued. Special training in archery, horsemanship, rifle and pistol shooting and automobile handling. Awarded Triple-cross of Courage and Conlavier Honour Medal during Latverian Civil War in 1947 for acts beyond the call of duty. Left Latveria in 1949 and moved to Nava, New Mexico when his parents died. The Scarlotti residence was submitted to the Prime Minister who made it his palace. An unfortunate accident in 1967 destroyed the structure. (The Silver Surfer's retribution on the Prime Minister's hirelings. FF #61). Identifying marks: Tattoo of the sign of Scorpio on right wrist, green-grey eyes, swarthy complexion.

Ralph Duby, 4184 Hubbard
Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146

The elusive Scorpio was indeed Julio Scarlotti, but was he the real one or just posing in one of his many identities? Next month's SHIELD saga brings the malevolent master of disguise back again to haunt Fury with incredible danger . . . replete with a new set of clues to his identity! Be sitting down when you read this one, Ralph! And, 'til then, keep them cards and letters coming in! *Peace, baby!*

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Be first in your neighborhood to cash in on this easy way to extra money with the 1968 Wallace Brown Line of Christmas Cards and Gift Items. Mail coupon this minute! You'll get 2 Greeting Card Assortments on approval. And *Free* Album of Name-Imprinted Personal Christmas Samples. Plus *Free* full-color catalog showing lots more money-makers, including many Christmas Assortments, Everyday Greeting Card Assortments, Decorated Stationery, Gift Wrappings, Household Items, etc. Everything you need to start making money at once—and we show you how.

FREE Album of Popular-Priced, Name-Imprinted PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thrill your friends and neighbors and make even MORE MONEY for yourself with custom-designed Special Value *PERSONAL* Christmas Cards at amazingly low prices... from only $1.95 to $3.95 for 25 cards with name imprinted! A large variety of exclusive, original designs for folks who want the finest quality in Personalized Christmas Cards at prices *everybody* can afford. It's so easy, too...they sell just by being shown! Just send the coupon for your FREE big, beautiful Album of actual samples of these fast-selling Special Value Personal Christmas Cards! Mail coupon TODAY for this exciting new Album!

ORGANIZATIONS:
Churches, clubs, veterans' auxiliaries, etc. can now add hundreds of dollars to their treasuries with these fast sellers. Give organization name on coupon for Fund-Raising Plan. Mail coupon NOW!

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SEND NO MONEY Paste Coupon on postcard or mail in envelope

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Send 2 Greeting Card Assortments on approval, plus FREE Album of Name-Imprinted Personal Christmas Cards, FREE full-color Catalog, and details of simple money-making plan.

Name _____ (print clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

If writing for an organization, give its name _____